GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:226
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO WILD ANIMALS
BHASKAR RAO PATIL;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Zoo Authority has recently taken steps to provide proper treatment to zoo animals in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a seminar on `Health Care Management of Wild Animals` was also held at New Delhi recently;

(d) if so, the details of personalities who participated in the seminar and the outcome thereof: and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide health care facilities to wild animals in zoos?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b) Providing proper treatment to zoo animals is primarily the responsibility of the concerned state government and the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) only provides technical and financial assistance for proper management and development of zoos on scientific lines including specifying the minimum standards for their housing, upkeep and veterinary care. Recently, on 20-6-2003, CZA has written to the Chief Wildlife Wardens of all the states emphasizing upon the compliance of guidelines issued on monitoring of hygiene and incidence of blood borne diseases in zoos.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Seventy delegates including eminent veterinarians from abroad (3 from U.S.A., 1 from Kenya and 1 from Singapore), Deans and Professors of Universities and Veterinary Institutes, Zoo Veterinarians and Zoo Directors from all over the country participated in the workshop. The workshop appraised the status of the health care management of wild animals in the country and evolved a strategy for future improvement in this area.

(e) The steps taken to provide health care facilities to wild animals in zoos include:

1) Minimum standards on veterinary care of animals kept in zoos have been prescribed and communicated to the states.
2) Functioning of zoos with respect to the prescribed standards is evaluated by the CZA and permission to operate is given to only such zoos that conform to the norms.
3) During the year 2002-03, a sum of Rs. 137.30 lakhs has been provided to State Governments for upgradation of health care facilities for zoo animals.